

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

-- ~~A~~ ~~The invention relates to a~~ sound-absorbing and fire-insulating wall covering ~~includes, comprising~~ a cured mixture of: (i) 5-20% by weight mineralized wood fibre; (ii) 20-60% by weight sand with an SiO₂ content of less than 5% by weight and a greywacke content of at least 30% by weight; and (iii) 20-50% by weight cement. ~~A, and to a method of preparing a fire-insulating wall covering includes a step of mixing, wherein~~ relative to the cured weight, ~~are mixed~~ 5-20% by weight mineralized wood fibre, 30-60% by weight sand with an SiO₂ content smaller than 5% by weight and a greywacke content of at least 30% by weight, and 20-50% by weight cement. ~~Then, and~~ 10-30% by weight water is ~~then~~ added. ~~Thereafter, whereafter~~ the mixture is cured to form the fire-insulating wall covering.